

REMARKS

Claims 11-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 11-13, 15, 19 and 20 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, it is noted that claim 15, 19 and 20 are amended for clarity only to add a period after claim 15, and to provide for strict antecedent basis for the elements recited in claims 19 and 20.

Claims 11, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) over Sauter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,967,314).

Claim 11 is directed to a cooking area comprising at least one heating element, a power controller for setting a heating output of the heating element which operates according to the set heating output in at least one of a first operating mode and a second operating mode, and an indicating device which indicates the set heating outputs in the first operating mode with symbols from a first set of symbols, wherein the indicating device indicates heating outputs in the second operating mode with symbols from a second set of symbols of a different symbolism compared to the first set of symbols.

Sauter et al. does not anticipate this subject matter. For example, Sauter et al. does not teach an indicating device which indicates the set heating outputs in the first operating mode with symbols from a first set of symbols, and wherein the indicating device indicates heating outputs in the second operating mode with symbols from a second set of symbols of a different symbolism compared to the first set of symbols. The different symbolisms of the symbols for the first and second modes indicate to the user in which operating mode the heating element is operating. Thus, any confusion as to whether there may be a fault in the heating element during an “off” time of the heating element, e.g., in the clock mode, is therefore avoided. See page 2, lines 19-27 of the translation of the PCT application.

Sauter et al. discloses a plurality of display elements 53-57, each of which includes a power display 77 and a time display 76. Sauter et al.’s device is operable such that a cooking operation can be carried out in which different power levels and times can

be selected for the initial cooking period and the subsequent cooking period. See column 4, lines 5-34. Nowhere does Sauter et al. disclose that the power display 77 between the initial and subsequent modes uses first and second symbols of different symbolism compared to one another, as set forth in claim 11.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sauter et al. in view of Stockley (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0000958). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least because Stockley does not make up for the deficiencies noted above in regard to Sauter et al. In particular, Stockley does not teach the claimed indicator which indicates set heating outputs in first and second operating modes with symbols with respective first and second sets of symbols which are of different symbolism. Stockley only teaches the use of a five-digit seven-segment display, as noted in the Office Action.

In addition, Stockley does not teach that the indicating device consists of a seven-segment display, as recited in claim 12. There is no suggestion between the teachings of Sauter et al. and Stockley that the indicating device can display first and second sets of symbols of different symbolism on a single seven-segment display, as recited in claim 12.

In addition, the Sauter et al./Stockley combination does not teach that the first set of symbols comprises a series of numbers from 0 to 9 and the second set of symbols does not include numbers, as recited in claim 13. The displays of Sauter et al. and Stockley use numbers for displaying heat level, time and cooking progress generally.

In addition, the Sauter et al./Stockley combination does not teach that the second set of symbols comprises combinations of three transverse segments of the seven-segment display, as recited in claim 14. In the Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that the claimed subject matter is a routine matter of choice having no patentable bearing on the claimed device. Applicant respectfully disagrees since the prior art does not teach that the transverse segments on the seven-segment display can be used to display a second set of symbols which is associated with the heating outputs in a second operating mode.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 4, 2009

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